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Approved For Release 2006/03/17 : CIA-RDP79T00472A001500010019-5

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OCI No. 1989/65

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
8 September 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

DIA review(s) completed.

The India-Pakistan Situation
(Report #19 - As of 6:00 A.M. EDT)

State Department review
completed

1. New Delhi radio this morning claims that Indian forces have struck across the West Pakistan border from the Indian state of Rajasthan. The alleged new thrust is about 500 miles south of the fighting in the Punjab and has as its target the Pakistani city of Hyderabad, Sind. This is a desert area very lightly defended by Pakistan, and it is doubtful if the Indian thrust is much more than a brigade-sized diversion from the Punjab, where fighting has apparently stabilized a few miles inside the Pakistan border.

2. India asserts the new drive into Sind is in retaliation for the Pakistan navy's shelling of a small Indian military installation south of Kutch on the Arabian Sea, some 200 miles east of Karachi.

3. Pakistan alleged this morning that Indian paratroopers were dropped in the Lahore area last night, but that they are being mopped up.

4. There is still no confirmation of yesterday's press reports that Indian forces invaded East Pakistan.

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Pakistan defends East Pakistan with a single division plus armed police, totaling no more than 22,000, while Indian forces now in a position to threaten the area total around 60,000.

5. In the air war, India has admitted the loss of eight aircraft, while Pakistan reports the loss of six. US military sources in Pakistan report the

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air force is maintaining an absolute maximum sortie rate at this time. Included in Pakistan's admitted losses are one F-104 and one B-57; the rest are presumably F-86s. Pakistan continues to claim the destruction, on the ground, of more Indian MIG-21s (12) than India is credited with having at the ready. Reporting on the actual targets hit in the last day or two continues to be confused. Pakistan has officially denied Indian charges that Pakistani aircraft bombed New Delhi early this morning. The Indians, meanwhile, have denied Pakistan charges of indiscriminate bombing, contending that Indian targets thus far have been solely military. The US Embassy Office in Rawalpindi, however, refutes this Indian claim by noting that the attack on Pindi yesterday by Indian aircraft was "obviously a terrorist tactic" against the civil population. New Pakistani air attacks on Indian airfields in Punjab and Rajasthan were reported last night.

6. The US Defense Attaché in New Delhi has reported the movement of a probable SAM convoy in the vicinity of Delhi's Palam airport yesterday.

7. Naval warfare may soon be added to the picture. One of India's two light cruisers, in company with two destroyer-types, is reported steaming from Bombay to the Karachi area where they will take up station in international waters. The Indian aircraft carrier VIKRANT (CVS) is reported steaming south in the Arabian Sea, bound for eastern India and the Bay of Bengal, where she will join up with other units of the fleet earlier deployed to East Pakistan waters. Pakistan's navy is already at sea in the Karachi area.

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8. The US Military Supply Mission in New Delhi, reporting on estimates hastily put together on India's ammunition supply situation, suggests that the Indian Army ammo stocks are sufficient for about three months for units now facing Pakistan, although some shortages in certain calibres may occur before then. This assumes a minimum reserve stock for possible use against the Chinese. The estimate did not include Indian Air Force ordnance.

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9. The British have again weighed in with both sides to stop the fighting. Moreover, a letter from Wilson to Shastri specifically has asked assurances that UK arms aid is not being used against Pakistan. US Embassy New Delhi, which notes that Indians are reacting badly to current British efforts for failing to distinguish between Indian and Pakistani responsibility for the current crisis, suggests this latest approach will accentuate anti-British feeling in official circles in India.

10. UN Secretary General Thant arrived in London this morning en route to South Asia. His first stop will be Karachi from which he will then move on to New Delhi.

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11. Pakistan has struck out thus far in attempting to mobilize support among its CENTO and SEATO allies. Communist China, Indonesia, and Albania have, however, been lending strong propaganda support for Pakistan's case, and a high-level Pakistani claims Djakarta will also send "aircraft."

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12. Communist China and the USSR are adopting widely varying positions on the conflict.

13. The Chinese Government statement broadcast on 7 September takes a more menacing line than Peking's initial coverage of the situation. The Chinese refer threateningly to alleged Indian "intrusions and provocations" along the frontier, and note specifically that Indians are "entrenched on Chinese territory" but Peking goes no further than a declaration that the Chinese are "now closely following developments" and "strengthening defenses and heightening alertness" along China's borders.

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14. In Moscow an authoritative TASS statement rather impartially blamed both India and Pakistan for aggravating a situation that "cannot benefit either side," but also delivered an implicit rebuke to Peking for its position on the crisis. The statement criticized those "outside forces" trying to prevent good relations between India and Pakistan and for setting them at loggerheads. In contrast to Communist China's denunciation of UN involvement in the crisis, the statement notes Soviet support for the 4 and 6 September UN security council resolutions and urged both countries to immediately stop military operations and to withdraw their troops behind the 1949 UN cease-fire line. Moscow's limited room for maneuver in the situation was reflected by a cautious offer of the Soviet Union's "good offices" if both sides deemed it useful in their efforts to resolve the conflict peacefully.

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a. The Pakistani aircraft which India brought down in the Delhi area yesterday was a C-130.

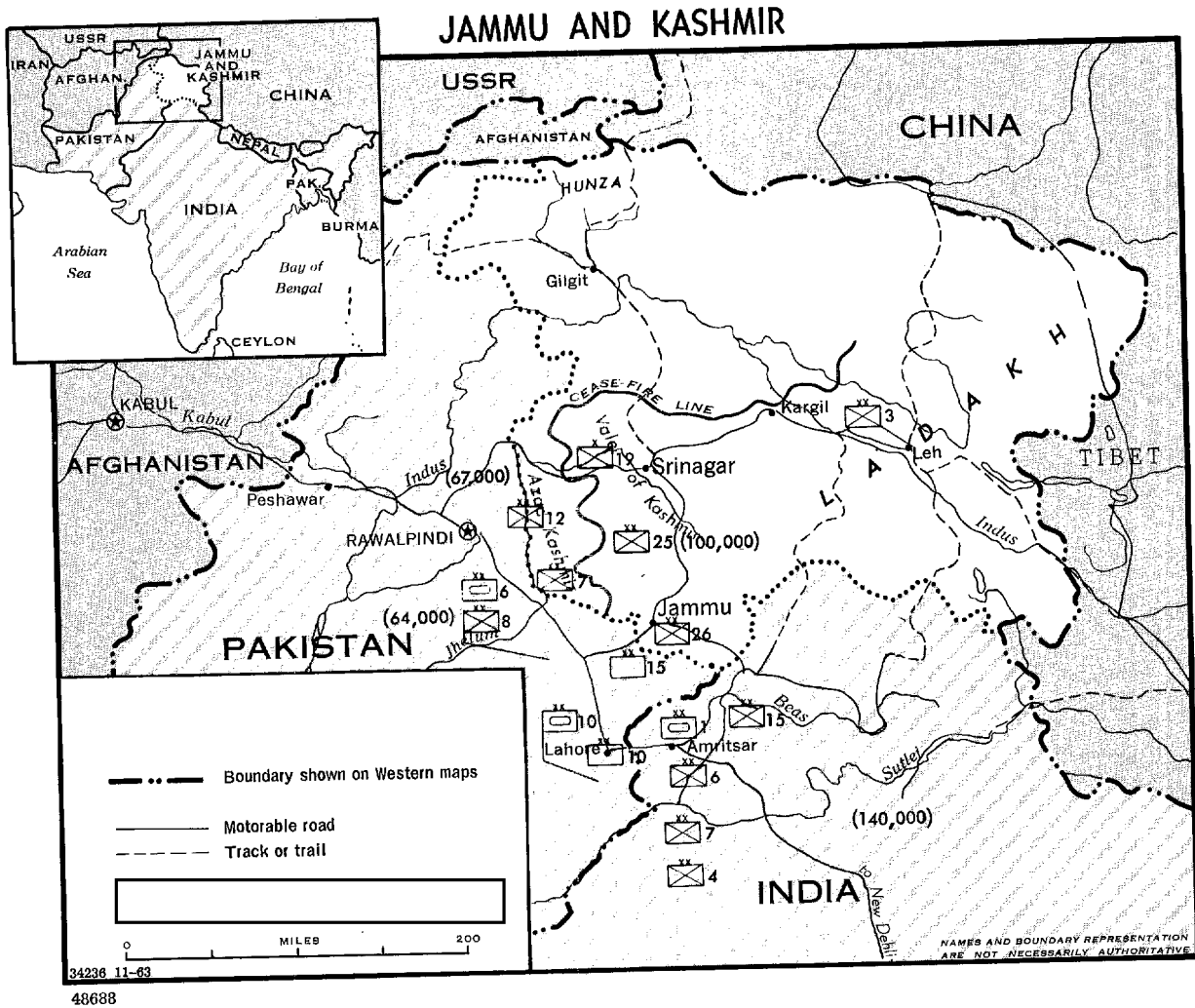
b. Dacca reports bulk of population relatively unexcited [redacted] and not convinced that hostilities in the East Pakistan area are inevitable. Pakistani fighters are reported much in evidence--there is probably no more than a squadron in East Pakistan--and army units are reported taking up positions identical with those assumed in the Rann of Kutch crisis, that is they are preparing for an attack from the north, parallel to the river axes, rather than from the west. There are no reports of Hindu-Muslim communal violence. Dacca recommends the evacuation of American women and children, nonetheless.

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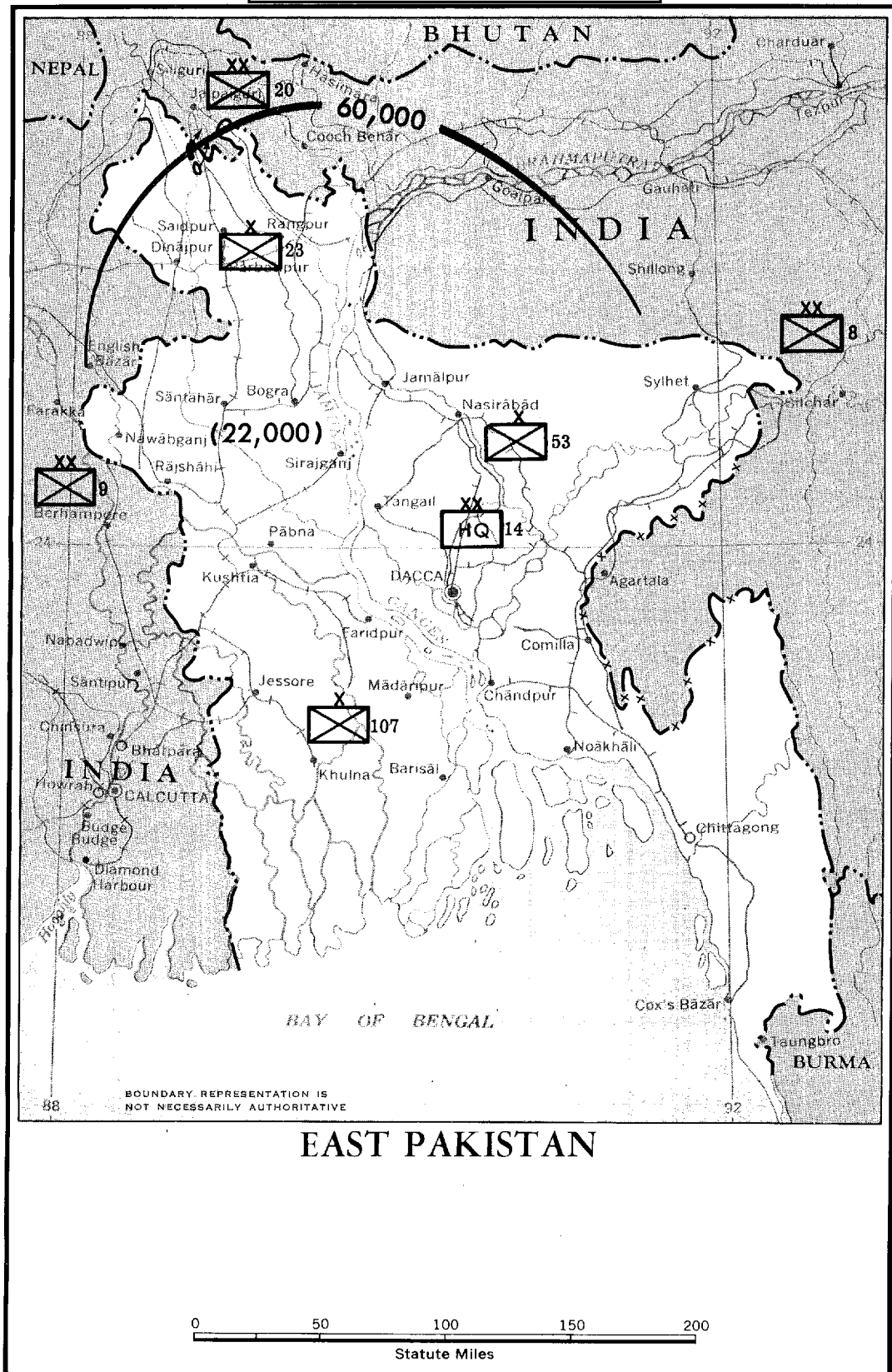
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